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Agenda item 124

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katja **Pehrman** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 124 appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/60/608 and Corr.1.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 37th, 39th to 42nd and 46th meetings, on 6, 14, 15, 21 and 22 March and 11 April 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/60/SR.37, 39-42 and 46).

3. For its further consideration of this item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the introduction of a cost-accounting system (A/60/714);

(b) Report by the Secretary-General on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations: standardized access control (A/60/695);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.35);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the 2005 World Summit Outcome: Peacebuilding Support Office: revised estimates to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/694);

(e) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.36);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General on information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery (A/60/677);

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(g) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.33);

(h) Reports of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/60/585 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2);

(i) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.37).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.35

4. At its 46th meeting, on 11 April 2006, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007" (A/C.5/60/L.35), which was submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representatives of Germany, Malawi and Namibia.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.35 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Uganda and Cameroon.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

The General Assembly,

I

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council,[1] as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005, by which it approved a charge of 100 million United States dollars for the twenty-six special political missions dealt with in the report of the Secretary-General[3] against the provision for special political missions,

Noting the importance of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of political missions of the United Nations,

Recognizing the need to identify and achieve greater complementarities and synergies, where possible, among the various special political missions and good offices of United Nations entities,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the improvements proposed in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] in the presentation of the budgets for special political missions for 2007;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of section VII of its resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2004, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that future budget proposals for special political missions are presented at an early date in order to facilitate proper consideration by the General Assembly;

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[1] A/60/585 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

[2] A/60/7/Add.37.

[3] A/60/585 and Corr.1.

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to utilize the existing expertise of staff within the United Nations system, including experts from regions where special political missions are located;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to ensure the deployment of staff with relevant knowledge and experience to special political missions and good offices of the United Nations and to include information on progress made in future budget proposals;

7. *Notes with appreciation* efforts made to include information on actual and potential synergies and complementarities for each individual mission, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to develop and improve the presentation of information in this regard;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify means to achieve greater complementarities and synergies among the various special political missions and good offices of United Nations entities, including, where possible, through greater sharing of human resources and logistical arrangements, particularly where mandates are similar or interconnected, while being cognizant of their respective mandates;

9. *Recalls* that in paragraph 9 of its resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000, it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that, in presenting the programme budget, expected accomplishments and, where possible, indicators of achievement are included to measure achievements in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit his future budget proposals in full compliance with its resolution 55/231;

11. *Notes* the lack of information analysing the growth and decrease in resources proposed as well as the variances between appropriations and expenditures in the reports of the Secretary-General;[1]

12. *Also notes* the variance between the vacancy rates used in formulating budgets and the actual vacancy situation, in particular in medium-sized to large missions;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to formulate and present future budgets of special political missions on the basis of an analysis of actual expenditure patterns, including the latest vacancy situation and variances between appropriations and expenditures, for the purpose of achieving more realistic budgeting;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to entrust to the Office of Internal Oversight Services a management review as outlined in paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee[2] and to submit it to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-first session;

15. *Reiterates* that experts and consultants for all special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives should be used in full compliance with the existing rules and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in cases where the required expertise is not available within the United Nations system;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this connection, to provide full justification in future budget submissions when requesting resources for experts and consultants;

17. *Notes* the observation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 52 (c) of its report[2] regarding the two positions funded from general temporary assistance, and requests the Secretary-General to include specific information on their status in the budget submission for 2007;

18. *Takes note* of paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[2] and decides to establish a position for a Political Affairs Officer at the P-4 level within the Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Lebanon;

19. *Approves* an additional charge of 202,469,500 dollars against the provision for special political missions already approved under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;[4]

II

2005 World Summit Outcome: Peacebuilding Support Office; revised estimates to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Support Office and the related revised estimates to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007,[5] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[6]

3. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to utilize an amount of up to 1,571,300 dollars from the approved initial provision for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007,[4] to operationalize a peacebuilding support office;

4. *Stresses* that the authorization from the provision for special political missions referred to in paragraph 3 above is a provisional and exceptional measure, decides that the Peacebuilding Support Office shall be financed from the programme budget, and requests the Secretary-General to include a provision for the Peacebuilding Support Office in the appropriate section of the programme budget, commencing with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, to ensure sustainable and reliable long-term financing of the Office;

5. *Decides* to revert to the issues regarding level, staffing and functions of the Peacebuilding Support Office as contained in the report of the Secretary-General[5] in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and in the light of decisions, if any, that may result from the consideration by the General Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted in accordance with paragraph 25 of its resolution 60/180 of 20 December 2005;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Peacebuilding Support Office has the necessary gender competence to support the Peacebuilding Commission in implementing its mandate to integrate a gender perspective into all

[4] See A/60/6 (Sect. 3) and resolution 60/247 A.
[5] A/60/694.
[6] A/60/7/Add.36.

of its work, taking into account, inter alia, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and drawing on the appropriate expertise in the United Nations system;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the efficient use of the resources approved in the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2006-2007, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 23 of its resolution 60/180;

III
Liabilities and proposed funding for after-service health insurance benefits

Recalling its resolution 58/249 A of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on liabilities and proposed funding for after-service health insurance benefits[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[8]

2. *Also takes note* of the background information on the after-service health insurance programme provided in paragraphs 6 to 9 of the report of the Secretary-General,[7] and requests further explanation of the programme;

3. *Recognizes* the end-of-service accrued benefit liabilities reported by the Secretary-General in his report,[7] and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to disclose those liabilities in the United Nations financial statements;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report that addresses the issues raised in paragraph 2 above, as well as the issues raised by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report,[8] and that provides updated information on the status of liabilities, clarifications with regard to the assumptions used to determine liabilities and alternative strategies to fund the liabilities to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

IV
Harmonization of the conditions of travel

Noting with appreciation the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on harmonization of the conditions of travel throughout the United Nations system[9] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[10]

1. *Decides* to revert to the consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[9] the note by the Secretary-General[10] and any relevant contributions by the International Civil Service Commission at its sixty-first session, together with the question "Standards of accommodation for air travel";

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to initiate, within the framework of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, a review of the

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[7] A/60/450 and Corr.1.
[8] A/60/7/Add.11.
[9] See A/60/78.
[10] A/60/78/Add.1.

standards of travel and entitlements for staff members, members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, with a view to adopting a common policy at the United Nations system level;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit the results of that review to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-first session.

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Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katja **Pehrman** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 124 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/60/608 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the question of the capital master plan at its 47th meeting, on 24 April 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/60/SR.47).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.38

3. At its 47th meeting, on 24 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Capital master plan" (A/C.5/60/L.38), which was submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

4. At the same meeting, before consideration of the draft resolution, the Controller made a statement.

5. Before the vote, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of position (see A/C.5/60/SR.47).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.38 without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Brazil.

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Capital master plan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/249 of 23 December 1999, 55/238 of 23 December 2000, 56/234 and 56/236 of 24 December 2001 and 56/286 of 27 June 2002, section II of its resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002, its resolution 59/295 of 22 June 2005, section II of its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005 and its decision 58/566 of 8 April 2004,

1. *Takes note* of the third annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

2. *Decides* to appropriate an amount of 23,500,000 United States dollars for financing the design and pre-construction phases, including swing space requirements for the capital master plan;

3. *Also decides* that the appropriation of 23,500,000 dollars shall be financed in accordance with regulation 3.1 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations through assessment on Member States in 2006 on the basis of the regular budget scale of assessments in effect for that year;

4. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of up to 77,000,000 dollars for the biennium 2006-2007 to provide for the construction, fit-out and related requirements of a conference swing space building on the North Lawn and for the leasing, design, pre-construction services, fit-out and related requirements of library and office swing space for the capital master plan;

5. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into lease commitments necessary for the implementation of the capital master plan;

6. *Reaffirms* paragraph 28 of its resolution 57/292, and calls on the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of private donor funding for the capital master plan;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to present a more detailed business analysis on the possibility of constructing a new permanent building on the North Lawn by the second part of its resumed sixtieth session;

8. *Decides* to revert, as a matter of priority, to the consideration of the reports on the capital master plan during the second part of its resumed sixtieth session.

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[1] A/60/550 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.

[2] A/60/7/Add.12.